



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, Wisconsin

2/28/97  
I-1

# FACT SHEET

9300 QUINCY AVENUE SITE  
(FORMER SCHMIDT BREWERY SITE)  
Cleveland, Ohio

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



584689

February 28, 1997

## BACKGROUND

This 11-acre site at East 93rd St. and Quincy Ave. was a brewery until 1984. The site is located in a residential area on the east side of Cleveland. The previous owner of the property died in 1989 and the site is currently owned by Stern Enterprises, Inc.

In 1989, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (EPA) was alerted to the site when local authorities discovered asbestos on the property. EPA issued a legal action against the Stern Estate, which resulted in the estate doing an asbestos cleanup, demolishing the on-site buildings, and paying a \$205,000 fine.

In November 1993, during the asbestos cleanup, workers found a spill from a vandalized PCB-containing transformer in the basement of a flooded building. Shortly after that, the company began to decontaminate the basement and, ultimately, remove the soil beneath the building. To date, more than 800 tons of PCB-contaminated material has been removed from the site. However, contamination was found to extend beyond the building's boundaries.

PCBs are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCBs in 1979 because of evidence that they do not break down in the environment and present health hazards to people.

## CURRENT STATUS

The major environmental threats at the site today are PCBs and underground storage tanks. EPA is in charge of overseeing cleanup of the PCBs. However, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has authority in ensuring that the underground storage tanks are properly removed from the site.

Recently cleanup at the site stopped for a 2 month period. On February 20, 1997, EPA met with the City of Cleveland, OEPA, and Stern Estate officials to get the cleanup going again. As a result of that meeting, cleanup of the Quincy Ave. Site resumed on February 24, 1997. Workers hired by the Stern Estate are currently draining water from the flooded pit. The estate has also committed to EPA to completing the cleanup. The Stern Estate is providing night-time security during the week and

around-the-clock security on weekends. The City of Cleveland is currently constructing a fence around the site and providing security until the fence is built.

### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

EPA and OEPA officials were at the site this week overseeing the cleanup and will continue to visit the site on a weekly basis. EPA will be closely monitoring progress at the site over the phone on a daily basis.

Next week, EPA will take samples from the on-site pit to check remaining PCB levels. The samples will take 3 or 4 days to come back from the laboratory. The remaining work that needs to be done at the site includes removing the remaining PCBs on the property, filling in the pit and covering it with soil, removing the on-site storage boxes containing waste and sending them to a landfill, and removing the water tanks and the underground storage tanks.

EPA intends to file an administrative civil penalty action against the Stern Estate under the Toxic Substances Control Act for violating Federal PCB laws. In addition, the Stern Estate violated its 1994 agreement with EPA when it failed to complete on time the demolition of the site's buildings. EPA is currently in negotiations with the Stern Estate for violating that agreement.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or want additional information, about the cleanup at the 9300 Quincy Avenue site, please write or call the individuals listed below:

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